

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-20 DODE-00 DEAE-00 JUSE-00

TRSE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 /045 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:CLSTERMER:AVW

APPROVED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER

EA/RA:HISOM (DRAFT)

S/NM:MLAWRENCE (DRAFT)

A/AID:MWAMPLER (DRAFT)

SA/LT:NWWEET (DRAFT)

DOD/ISA:PFLINT (DRAFT)

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R 062032Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092779

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT OFFER

REF: RANGOON 1077

1. WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S PROMPT AND THOROUGH REPORTING ON CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR GUB OFFICIALS ON NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT PACKAGE. LATEST COMMENTS (REFTEL) BY BRIG. SAW PRU AND COL. TIN OO WOULD INDICATE THAT THE BURMESE MAY SOON PROVIDE US WITH A FORMAL RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL. THIS IS A GOOD TIME, THEREFORE, TO CONSIDER AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN TO THE BURMESE AND HOW WE CAN BEST MEET THEM.

2. THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ARE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT BURMESE ARE THINKING PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF HELICOPTERS, THAT THEY ARE TO BE USED BASICALLY IN AIRLIFT CAPACITY AND THAT BURMESE WILL WANT THEM DELIVERED EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH A MINIMUM OF "STRINGS" ATTACHED.

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A. PRODUCTION SCHEDULE. UNLESS UNUSUAL CONDITIONS SHOULD INDICATE EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT, COMMERCIAL VERSION NEW HELICOPTERS (UH-1H OR HUEY) COULD BE DELEREOUT TWELVE MONTHS AFTER BEING ORDERED. MOREOVER, PROBABLY ONLY TWO OR THREE AT THE MOST WOULD BE AVAILABLE EACH MONTH THEREAFTER. FACTORY PRODUCTION SCHEDULES ARE INFLEXIBLE

AND THESE AIRCRAFT ARE IN HEAVY DEMAND BY OUR OWN MILITARY SERVICES AND OTHER END-USERS, THUS CREATING A TIGHT SUPPLY SITUATION.

B. ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY. ORIGINAL PROPOSAL CALLED FOR INCREMENTS OF SIX PER YEAR OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD DEPENDING ON GUB ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY. WE ASSUME THAT BURMESE CAPABILITY TO ABSORB ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT, PARTICULARLY OF TYPES NOT NOW IN THEIR INVENTORY, IS LIMITED AND THE SUGGESTED SCHEDULE OF SIX PER YEAR WAS BASED TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT UPON THIS FACTOR. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION WAS OUR BELIEF THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO FUND THE PROGRAM AND TO GAIN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT IF SPACED OVER THREE YEAR PERIOD. HOWEVER, IF THE BURMESE CAN DEMONSTRATE AN OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY IN TERMS OF TRAINED PILOTS, MAINTENANCE CREWS AND POL REQUIREMENT FOR LARGER INCREMENTS AND, IF AFTER THE FIRST DELIVERIES WE DETERMINE THE BURMESE ARE UTILIZING THE AIRCRAFT AS INTENDED, THEN WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ACCELERATION OF FUTURE DELIVERIES.

C. USE OF AIRCRAFT. COL. TIN OO'S COMMENTS REPORTED REFTTEL PARA 3 PROVIDED THE FIRST CONCRETE INDICATION OF HOW THE GUB PLANS TO USE AIRCRAFT, NAMELY, TO INSERT TROOPS FOR CARAVAN INTERDICTION PURPOSES. IF THE BURMESE ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN EXPANDING THEIR AIRLIFT CAPABILITY, AND NOT NECESSARILY IN INCREASING AIR-TO-GROUND FIREPOWER, AS WOULD BE THE VIRTUE OF FIXED WING AIRCRAFT ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED (AT-37 AND OV-1), THEN THERE MAY BE OTHER HELICOPTER OPTIONS THEY COULD CONSIDER IN ADDITION TO UH-1H (SEE PARA 3 BELOW).

D. TECHNICAL TEAM. CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED SEVERAL  
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TIMES OVER WHAT THE PROPOSED U. S. TECHNICAL TEAM VISIT TO BURMA WOULD ACCOMPLISH. OUR INTEREST HAS BEEN TO ESTABLISH A THOROUGH, CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH BURMESE ON OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE AIRCRAFT OPTIONS AND SCHEDULING TO ENSURE THAT TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON BOTH SIDES WERE FULLY EXPLORED. OUR PURPOSE WAS SIMPLY TO FACILITATE SOUND DECISIONS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT THINK IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A U. S. TEAM VISIT BURMA; AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE

FOR THE BURMESE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO SEND A TEAM  
HERE FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH USG OFFICIALS AND  
PERHAPS ALSO AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS.

3. IN REVIEWING BURMESE NEEDS AND INTERESTS, AS WE NOW  
UNDERSTAND THEM, WE WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY

OF OFFERING THE GUB RECONDITIONED HH 43 (HUSKY) HELI-  
COPTERS RATHER THAN UHH OR OTHER COMPARABLE NEW AIRCRAFT.  
DOCUMENTS ON HUSKY WERE POUCHED TO THE EMBASSY SEVERAL  
WEEKS AGO AND COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE REVIEW  
BY GUB. AMONG ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF HH 43'S ARE:

A. HUSKEY'S ARE ALREADY IN THE GUB INVENTORY AND THUS  
COULD BE MORE READILY ABSORBED AND MAINTAINED THAN A NEW  
AIRCRAFT TYPE. IN ADDITION, SUPPLY OF SUCH AIRCRAFT  
WOULD REDUCE PROBLEM OF COMPATIBILITY THAT WOULD OCCUR  
IF OTHER AIRCRAFT WERE INTRODUCED TO BAF INVENTORY.

B. ESTIMATE OF TIME REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY DEPENDENT  
UPON LEAD TIME FOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS PLUS THREE TO  
SIX MONTHS FOR RECONDITIONING AND SHIPMENT.

C. HUSKY AIRLIFT CAPABILITY IS COMPARABLE TO THE HUEY,  
AS THE BURMESE KNOW;

D. COST DIFFERENTIAL IS SIGNIFICANT AS COMPARED TO NEW  
HUEY'S (CIRCA \$150,000 VS. \$600,000 PLUS); THIS MIGHT  
MAKE THE INEVITABLE PUBLICITY ON TOTAL PROGRAM COST LESS  
TROUBLESOME FOR THE BURMESE.

4. WITHOUT INQUIRING OF GUB, APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT  
ON THESE IDEAS INCLUDING ESTIMATE OF GUB REACTION. RUSH  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, POLICIES, HELICOPTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE092779  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** CLSTERMER:AVW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** RANGOON 1077  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT OFFER  
**TAGS:** SNAR, BM  
**To:** RANGOON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005